

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

SERVING RIVERSIDE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

AN EDITION OF THE REGISTER

Sunday, March 15, 2020 \$2.00 FACEBOOK.COM/THPRESSENTERPRISE TWITTER.COM/PRESSENTERPRISE

pe.com

PANDEMIC

VIRUS EXPECTED TO SURGE IN U.S.



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travelers wait to check in their luggage at Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday. President Donald Trump has expanded his ban on most Europeans entering the United States to include people from Britain and Ireland to try to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Washington, D.C.: The nation's leaders confront outbreak with new tools and angst

By Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo and Aamer Madhani
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump announced Saturday that the United States will expand its European travel restrictions to include Britain and Ireland as the U.S., armed with new tools against the pandemic, braced for it to get worse before it gets better. The government's top infection expert warned that COVID-19, which is caused by the novel coronavirus, may surge within the nation in coming days.

Under the restrictions on European travel, American citizens, green card holders and others are still allowed to return home to the U.S., but they will

TRAVEL » PAGE 12



ALEX BRANDON — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump speaks during a news conference about the coronavirus in the James Brady Briefing Room at the White House on Saturday in Washington.

INSIDE

A3: Catholics gathering for worship despite coronavirus concerns.

A8: Coronavirus roils financial waters for idled cruise industry; key questions about the coronavirus answered.

A9: Realtors see some unease in the housing market; shoppers flock to grocery stores on Saturday.

Southland: Those who are sick are finding that receiving a test for virus can be daunting

By David Rosenfeld
drosenfeld@scng.com

Renee Schwartz started feeling sick a few weeks ago after returning from a trip to Houston. As her bronchitis-like symptoms worsened, the 60-year-old North Hills resident said she began to think the worst: maybe she has the novel coronavirus.

But as she quickly found out, getting a test for the virus that is sweeping the world in a deadly pandemic wouldn't be that easy.

"Why can't I get tested?" she asked. "I need to know if I have it so I can tell people who I had a contact with that they might be infected."

Schwartz's frustration is shared by

TESTING » PAGE 12

Coachella Valley: Tourism industry looks to soften blow of rescheduled festivals

By Fielding Buck and Alex Groves
Staff writers

The Coachella Valley tourism industry is putting a brave face on the postponement of Southern California's biggest music festivals.

The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival and the Stagecoach Country Music Festival have been moved from April to three weekends in October because of the novel coronavirus concerns.

The Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau is looking for ways to fill the area's 17,000 hotel rooms, many of which in years past have been at

near capacity for the festivals, which were originally scheduled for April 10-12, April 17-19 and April 24-26.

"People want to come here in the spring," Colleen Pace, chief sales and marketing officer for the bureau, said in an interview.

Scott White, president and chief executive officer of the bureau, said in a statement that Easter and spring break tourism can reduce the negative effect of the schedule shift.

The festivals are cash cows. They pump \$403 million into the local economy, according to a 2016 report by Development Management Group, an economic

TOURISM » PAGE 10



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Bella da Ball runs a trivia game poolside at the Adult Swim and Desert Gold event at Ace Hotel in Palm Springs in April 2018, during the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Coronavirus concerns have delayed this year's music festivals from April to October, leaving the tourism industry scrambling.

REHAB RIVIERA

Statute to stop body brokering not being pursued

DOJ not prosecuting addiction centers

By Teri Sforza and Tony Saavedra
Staff writers

As California continues to grapple with the plague of body brokering — the sometimes-deadly practice in which addiction centers lure substance abusers into treatment, max out their insurance benefits, then give them drugs so they can test "dirty" and start the lucrative billing cycle again — state officials fear the federal government doesn't have their backs.

Since President Donald Trump signed a sweeping measure to address the nation's opioid crisis in October 2018, the Department of Justice hasn't prosecuted a single case for body brokering, according to the department.

"It is extremely frustrating that the Department of Justice has not aggressively pursued cases where brokers treat patients as commodities, exploiting them for finders' fees with no intention of providing legitimate care," Rep. Mike Levin, D-San Juan Capistrano, said in a prepared statement. "There is no excuse for their failure to prosecute these cases, particularly when we desperately need an all-hands-on-deck approach to this crisis."

Levin and five other Congress members wrote to U.S. Attorney General William Barr in August, stressing the need for federal action on body brokering. Since state laws against the practice vary widely from state to state — and since patients are often brokered across state lines — "it is critical that the federal government step in," they wrote.

The letter also was signed by Reps. Harley Rouda, D-Laguna Beach; Katie Porter, D-Irvine;

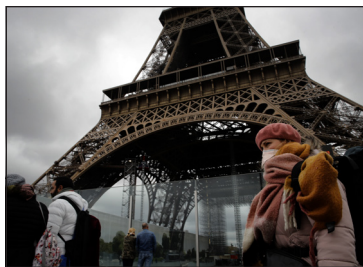
REHAB » PAGE 7

THEME PARKS

Fans flock to Disneyland before temporary closure

Disneyland and Disney California Adventure closed on Friday and will remain closed through the end of the month due to fears over spread of COVID-19. PAGE A10

GLOBAL PANDEMIC



Spanish lockdown on; Parisian nightlife off

Spain has announced a lockdown of its 46 million people, France has closed the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, as governments take sweeping measures to reduce contact between people. PAGE A11

INDEX

Business E3 | Obituaries A15 | Puzzles C4,5,E4
Classifieds E4 | Opinion H1-5 | Travel C9



Riverside
62/47

Temecula:
High 61
Low 45

Desert:
High 73
Low 51

Mountains:
High 42
Low 24

Customer Service: 1-951-368-9000

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP
Volume 134, Issue 75



INLAND EMPIRE
REGIONAL CAMPUS



God First Since 1899

Advance Your Career with an RN to BSN

Access this rigorous, Christ-centered program Azusa Pacific is known for, and complete your **RN to BSN** at our regional campus in San Bernardino or online.

Apply today! apu.edu/inland

Also offered in San Bernardino: Bridge to BSN, LVN to BSN, Entry-Level Master's, MSN

